



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

*Private Members Statement by Blair Yakimoski, MLA for Transcona.  
As read before the House of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba  
on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017.*

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*Delicious, quaint, Transcona's hidden gem, these are all adjectives used to describe the diamond of downtown Transcona, L'Arche Tova Cafe.*

*In April of 2012 a group of individuals had a dream of opening a cafe to support L'Arche Winnipeg in their mandate of assisting those with mental disabilities to live to their full potential by providing meaningful employment for them and to foster a more compassionate society. As the founder of L'Arche Jean Vanier said "we must do what we can to diminish walls".*

*Today, L'Arche Tova Cafe is a place where the participants can work, learn skills, and build relationships with customers who become friends. Customers who always want to return for a visit. Whether they are there to see Ross, Albert and Stacey or other L'Arche participants, they are always greeted with a smile, perhaps a hug and a menu. Then thanks to Nick and the attentive staff you are treated to a terrific home cooked meal, which never disappoints.*

*Next month L'Arche Tova Cafe celebrates 5 years of being the place that all Transcona is proud to call their own. The little café that means so much to the people who planted the seed of this idea, also means so much to those whose lives are enriched by everyone they come in contact with there.*


*Thank you to those who brought this vision to fruition, and who continue to work to ensure the gifts of those participants who make it a special place in our neighbourhood, continue to thrive.*

***L'Arche Tova Café has done much to break down the barriers for individuals with a developmental disability, a place where they are accepted, appreciated and are able to show the skills they have learned, a place of hope, and gratitude. Not only do you receive "Great Food with Heart" you're helping the Café "Change lives one cup of coffee at a time".***

*Special thanks to Larry Vickar and his wife Tova, after whom the café is named, for their commitment and continued support to this venture that benefits our community and helps us become a better community.*

*Please join me in thanking the Vickars as well as Jim Lapp, Dianne Truderung and all the volunteers at the café and the L'Arche office.*



  
**Blair Yakimoski, MLA**  
**Transcona Constituency**